12.   (Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein step c) further comprises calculating corresponding ingress and egress schedules which satisfy said calculated cross-bar rates.

(Applicant's Remarks are set forth hereinbelow, starting on the following page.)

REMARKS

Entry of the amendments to the claims before examination of the application is respectfully requested. These claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies.

If there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees, be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Evenson, McKeown, Edwards & Lenahan, P.L.L.C., Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #3036/50061).

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

5.   (Amended) An arrangement according to [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, wherein each egress schedule storing means stores identities of ingress means addresses from which data is to be received.

10.   (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 7 to 9,] Claim 7, wherein step c) comprises, for each ingress means, calculating cross-bar rates required to each egress means.

12.   (Amended) A method according to [claim 10 or 11,] claim 10, wherein step c) further comprises calculating corresponding ingress and egress schedules which satisfy said calculated cross-bar rates.